

How to Become a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator

Step by Step Guide

*including amended requirements effective from
April 7, 2020 – June 30, 2022*



To assist new mediators, the Florida Dispute Resolution Center has created this guide which contains qualifications for mediator certification, a list of certified mediation training programs, good moral character screening procedures, mentorship definitions and eligible activities, and continuing mediator education requirements.

Revised December 2021

Attachment A1 - Mediator Certification Qualifications

See Attachment A2 - Amended Mediator Qualifications (pages 7-8) if you have completed a certified mediation training program between April 7, 2020 – June 30, 2022

Requirements for County, Family, Circuit, Dependency and Appellate Mediator Certification	
County	<p>Minimum Points:</p> <p>30 certified county mediation training; and</p> <p>10 education for HS Diploma or GED; and</p> <p>60 mentorship. <i>[Note: Mentorship points cannot be reduced as a product of having more than the 10 points in the educational / mediation experience component.]</i></p> <p>= 100 points</p>
Family	<p>Minimum Points:</p> <p>30 certified family mediation training; and</p> <p>25 educational / mediation experience; and</p> <p>30 mentorship; and</p> <p>15 additional points via mentorship, higher education, mediation experience, or options under miscellaneous points.</p> <p>= 100 points</p>
Dependency	<p>Minimum Points:</p> <p>30 certified dependency mediation training; and</p> <p>25 educational / mediation experience; and</p> <p>40 mentorship; and</p> <p>5 additional points via mentorship, higher education, mediation experience, or options under miscellaneous points.</p> <p>= 100 points</p>
Circuit	<p>Minimum Points:</p> <p>30 certified circuit mediation training; and</p> <p>25 educational / mediation experience; and</p> <p>30 mentorship; and</p> <p>15 additional points via mentorship, higher education, mediation experience, or options under miscellaneous points.</p> <p>= 100 points</p>
Appellate	<p>An applicant must be a certified circuit, family or dependency mediator and successfully complete a certified appellate mediation training program.</p>

Any discrepancy between the summary and the written certification requirements shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

Educational & Mediation Experience Points for Family, Circuit, and Dependency Certification

[Note: County Education Minimum Listed on Previous Page]

40 points	Ph.D. from accredited CR Program
30 points	Doctorate (e.g., JD, MD, PhD, EdD, LLM)
30 points	Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution
25 points	Master's Degree
25 points	Graduate Certificate Conflict Resolution Program AND a Bachelor's Degree
25 points	Mediated 15 cases (<i>of any type</i>) a year as a Florida certified mediator for a consecutive 5 year period AND a Bachelor's Degree
25 points	Minimum of 100 mediations (<i>of any type</i>) conducted as mediator over a consecutive 5 year period AND a Bachelor's Degree
+ 5 points	An additional five points will be awarded for completion of a graduate level conflict resolution certificate program

Florida certified mediator: 1 point per year in which mediated at least 15 mediations (any type) OR any mediator: 5 points for minimum of 100 mediations (any type) over a 5-year period

Mentorship Options: You Choose How to Reach Required Points

[Note: You must work with at least two different certified mediators and must be completed for the type of certification sought.]

5 points each session	Observation
10 points each complete mediation	Supervised Mediation

Miscellaneous Options: Helping You Reach 100 Points

5 points (total)	Licensed to practice law, psychology, accounting, social work, mental health, health care, education, or mediation in any US jurisdiction
5 points (total)	Florida Certified Mediator (<i>currently certified</i>)
5 points (total)	Foreign Language Conversational Ability as demonstrated by certification by ACTFL Oral Proficiency Test; qualified as a court interpreter; or accredited by the American Translators Association; Sign Language Interpreter as demonstrated by approval by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
5 points (total)	Completion of additional mediation training program (minimum 30 hours in length) certified/approved by a state or court other than Florida

Any discrepancy between the summary and the written certification requirements shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

All mediators must be at least 21 years of age and be of good moral character.

Rule 10.100. Certification Requirements

- (a) General. For certification as a county court, family, circuit court, dependency, or appellate mediator, a mediator must be at least 21 years of age and be of good moral character. For certification as a county court, family, circuit court, or dependency mediator, one must have the required number of points for the type of certification sought as specifically required in rule 10.105.
- (b) County Court Mediators. For initial certification as a mediator of county court matters, an applicant must have at least a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and 100 points, which shall include:
 - (1) 30 points for successful completion of a Florida Supreme Court certified county court mediation training program;
 - (2) 10 points for education; and
 - (3) 60 points for mentorship.
- (c) Family Mediators. For initial certification as a mediator of family and dissolution of marriage issues, an applicant must have at least a bachelor's degree and 100 points, which shall include, at a minimum:
 - (1) 30 points for successful completion of a Florida Supreme Court certified family mediation training program;
 - (2) 25 points for education/mediation experience; and
 - (3) 30 points for mentorship.

Additional points above the minimum requirements may be awarded for completion of additional education/mediation experience, mentorship, and miscellaneous activities.

- (d) Circuit Court Mediators. For initial certification as a mediator of circuit court matters, other than family matters, an applicant must have at least a bachelor's degree and 100 points, which shall include, at a minimum:
 - (1) 30 points for successful completion of a Florida Supreme Court certified circuit mediation training program;
 - (2) 25 points for education/mediation experience; and
 - (3) 30 points for mentorship.

Additional points above the minimum requirements may be awarded for completion of additional education/mediation experience, mentorship, and miscellaneous activities.

Any discrepancy between the summary and the written certification requirements shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

- (e) **Dependency Mediators.** For initial certification as a mediator of dependency matters, as defined in Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.290, an applicant must have at least a bachelor's degree and 100 points, which shall include, at a minimum:
- (1) 30 points for successful completion of a Florida Supreme Court certified dependency mediation training program;
 - (2) 25 points for education/mediation experience; and
 - (3) 40 points for mentorship.

Additional points above the minimum requirements may be awarded for completion of additional education/mediation experience, mentorship, and miscellaneous activities.

- (f) **Appellate Mediators.** For initial certification as a mediator of appellate matters, an applicant must be a Florida Supreme Court certified circuit, family or dependency mediator and successfully complete a Florida Supreme Court certified appellate mediation training program.
- (g) **Senior Judges Serving As Mediators.** A senior judge may serve as a mediator in a court-ordered mediation in a circuit in which the senior judge is presiding over criminal cases or in a circuit in which the senior judge is not presiding as a judge, or in both, only if certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a mediator for that type of mediation.
- (h) **Referral for Discipline.** If the certification or licensure necessary for any person to be certified as a family or circuit mediator is suspended or revoked, or if the mediator holding such certification or licensure is in any other manner disciplined, such matter shall be referred to the Mediator Qualifications Board for appropriate action pursuant to rule 10.800.
- (i) **Special Conditions.** Mediators who are certified prior to August 1, 2006, shall not be subject to the point requirements for any category of certification in relation to which continuing certification is maintained.

Rule 10.105. Point System Categories

- (a) **Education.** Points shall be awarded in accordance with the following schedule (points are only awarded for the highest level of education completed and honorary degrees are not included):
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| High School Diploma/GED | 10 points |
| Associate's Degree | 15 points |
| Bachelor's Degree | 20 points |
| Master's Degree | 25 points |
| Master's Degree in Conflict Resolution | 30 points |
| Doctorate (e.g., Ph.D., J.D., M.D., Ed.D., LL.M) | 30 points |
| Ph.D. from Accredited Conflict Resolution Program | 40 points |

Any discrepancy between the summary and the written certification requirements shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

An additional five points will be awarded for completion of a graduate level conflict resolution certificate program in an institution which has been accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the American Bar Association, or an entity of equal status.

- (b) **Mediation Experience.** One point per year will be awarded to a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator for each year that mediator has mediated at least 15 cases of any type. In the alternative, a maximum of five points will be awarded to any mediator, regardless of Florida Supreme Court certification, who has conducted a minimum of 100 mediations over a consecutive five-year period.
- (c) **Mentorship.** Ten points will be awarded for each supervised mediation completed of the type for which certification is sought and five points will be awarded for each mediation session of the type for which certification is sought which is observed.
- (d) **Miscellaneous Points.**
 - (1) Five points shall be awarded to applicants currently licensed or certified in any United States jurisdiction in psychology, accounting, social work, mental health, health care, education, or the practice of law or mediation. Such award shall not exceed a total of five points regardless of the number of licenses or certifications obtained.
 - (2) Five points shall be awarded for possessing conversational ability in a foreign language as demonstrated by certification by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Test, qualification as a court interpreter, accreditation by the American Translators Association, or approval as a sign language interpreter by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Such award shall not exceed a total of five points regardless of the number of languages in which the applicant is proficient.
 - (3) Five points shall be awarded for the successful completion of a mediation training program (minimum 30 hours in length) which is certified or approved by a jurisdiction other than Florida and which may not be the required Florida Supreme Court certified mediation training program. Such award shall not exceed five points regardless of the number of training programs completed.
 - (4) Five points shall be awarded for certification as a mediator by the Florida Supreme Court. Such award shall not exceed five points per category regardless of the number of training programs completed or certifications obtained.

Any discrepancy between the summary and the written certification requirements shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

Attachment A2 - Amended Mediator Qualifications

***In re: Alternative Dispute Resolution Educational and Certification Requirements,
Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC20-24 Amendment 2
Valid from April 7, 2020 – June 30, 2022***

Requirements for County, Family, Circuit, Dependency and Appellate Mediator Certification	
County	Minimum Points: 30 certified county mediation training; and 10 education for HS Diploma or GED. = 40 points
Family	Minimum Points: 30 certified family mediation training; and 25 educational / mediation experience; and 15 additional points via mentorship, higher education, mediation experience, or options under miscellaneous points. = 70 points
Dependency	Minimum Points: 30 certified dependency mediation training; and 25 educational / mediation experience; and 5 additional points via mentorship, higher education, mediation experience, or options under miscellaneous points. = 60 points
Circuit	Minimum Points: 30 certified circuit mediation training; and 25 educational / mediation experience; and 15 additional points via mentorship, higher education, mediation experience, or options under miscellaneous points. = 70 points
Appellate	There are no modifications to appellate mediator certification. An applicant must be a certified circuit, family or dependency mediator and successfully complete a certified appellate mediation training program.

Educational & Mediation Experience Points for Family, Circuit, and Dependency

[Note: County Education Minimum Listed on Previous Page]

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Mentorship Options: You Choose How to Reach Required Points

[Note: You must work with at least 2 different certified mediators and must be completed for the type of certification sought.]

5 points each session	Observation
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Miscellaneous Options: Helping You Reach 100 Points

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5 points (total)	Foreign Language Conversational Ability as demonstrated by certification by ACTFL Oral Proficiency Test; qualified as a court interpreter; or accredited by the American Translators Association; Sign Language Interpreter as demonstrated by approval by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
5 points (total)	Completion of additional mediation training program (minimum 30 hours in length) certified/approved by a state or court other than Florida

All mediators must be at least 21 years of age and be of good moral character.